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C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 000007

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/04/2015
TAGS: [MARR](#) [MASS](#) [PREL](#) [MO](#)
SUBJECT: COUNTRY TEAM ASSESSMENT IN SUPPORT OF LANDING SHIP
- TANK (LST) AMPHIBIOUS EXCESS DEFENSE ARTICLE (EDA) SALE

REF: LETTER OF REQUEST FROM MOROCCAN NAVY DTD 10
SEPTEMBER 08 REQUESTING ONE LST NAVAL VESSEL

Classified By: CHIEF OSC-MO, LTC J. T. WYATT, SR, FOR REASONS 1.4 (B) A
ND (D).

¶1. (C/NF) Purpose: The Embassy supports the sale of one
Landing Ship - Tank (LST) Amphibious Ship to the Government
of Morocco.

¶2. (C/NF) Reason Desired: Due to a catastrophic fire, the
Royal Moroccan Navy (RMN) is seeking a replacement for their
current LST. The engine room fire rendered the current LST
beyond economical repair. The offered LST is a refurbished
LST obtained from U.S. Navy inventories and is configured for
international sale. Replacement of the current Moroccan LST
allows the RMN to deliver critical material and personnel in
support of humanitarian assistance, counter drug trafficking,
natural disaster relief, peacekeeping, and illegal
immigration operations. The LST acquisition will enhance
interoperability with U.S. systems and further U.S. access to
the RMN.

¶3. (C/NF) Effect on Force Structure: The new LST would
replace the currently inoperable RMN LST. The RMN has
support and training needed to operate this vessel.

¶4. (C/NF) Contribution to both U.S. and Moroccan
Defense/Security Goals: U.S. Government interests would be
served by building RMN's sealift capability and increasing
RMN's interoperability with U.S. forces. Building
Partnership Capacity (BPC) is an OSD core competency and
increasing Morocco's sealift capability fulfills this
objective. At the same time, replacing the inoperable RMN
LST would contribute to the RMN's objectives of increasing
its ability to participate in peacekeeping operations, to
deliver critical material and personnel, and to respond to
natural disasters.

¶5. (C/NF) Justification of type and quantity: The RMN needs
to replace the current USN provided LST. The acquisition of
one LST would meet RMN requirements and is not considered
excessive as it is merely replacing the current U.S. provided
EDA asset.

¶6. (C/NF) Reaction of Neighbors: Reaction from the
Government of Algeria may be expected. However, the quantity
is not excessive, and no new capability is being introduced,
although this mission defers to Embassy Algiers to assess the
GOA reaction. With the aging of the RMN's military

equipment, Morocco is seeking to modernize all of its naval fleet with the objective of maintaining a credible force. The acquisition of the LST is consistent with its maritime plan. The Governments of Mauritania and Spain would possibly take note of the sale, but both countries enjoy good relations with Morocco.

¶7. (C/NF) Ability to Account, Safeguard, Operate, Maintain, and Support: Excellent. Morocco currently has a wide variety of classified and sensitive U.S. origin equipment and has demonstrated considerable expertise in its security, maintenance and operations. Additionally, in December 2009, the Government of Morocco (GoM) signed a Communications Interoperability and Security Memorandum of Agreement (CISMOA) with DoD, stipulating that Morocco will safeguard all U.S. origin sensitive military communication security items and equipment.

¶8. (C/NF) Training Requirements: None.

¶9. (C/NF) Impact of In-Country U.S. Forces: We anticipate no need for additional in country staff support.

¶10. (C/NF) Source of Financing: For the initial acquisition of the LST, including total support package, Morocco indicates it would use national funds. For the continued life cycle management of the LST, Morocco would either use national funds or its FMF budget allocation to the RMN.

¶11. (U/NF) Human Rights Impact: As recently noted in the Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, Morocco's human rights situation has improved considerably, although

significant problems remain. During the reign of King Mohammed VI, in particular, increased freedoms and rights have been given to women. While violations continue, we do not perceive the RMN to be a human rights violator. Post sees little risk that this vessel would be used for human rights violations.

¶12. (C/NF) End-Use Monitoring Plan: OSC Rabat has an End-Use Monitoring Plan in effect and would ensure all sensitive items are accounted for and disposed of in accordance with U.S. regulations.

¶13. (C/NF) Approval Recommendation: Embassy Rabat recommends approval of the sale of one Landing Ship) Tank Amphibious. Modernizing the RMN is consistent with USG objectives and the LST foreign military sale continues our support of the Government of Morocco's security and regional stability.

¶14. (U) OSC POC is LCDR Bramblett, Rabat comm. 212 661-074-866.

Visit Embassy Rabat's Classified Website;
<http://www.intelink.sgov.gov/wiki/Portal:Moro> cco

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